

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CEREAL AND HAY CROPS, 1923-24.

Wheat, 34,551,955bush. ; average per acre, 14.29. Barley, 3,310,716bush. ; average per acre, 17.44. Oats, 2,157,938bush. ; average per acre, 12.24.

FOR the purpose of ascertaining the final results of the recent harvest of the cereals and hay crops, forms of inquiry were distributed and collected through the post by the aid of the police officers in the agricultural districts of the State, and from the information thus obtained the estimate now issued has been computed.

At the time of the general collection of the previous year's crops a record was made of all farmers having sown areas for wheat, barley, and oats, and forms to all of them were posted. The response has been very satisfactory, for out of a total of 15,628, only 579 are still outstanding, and a reasonable allowance has been made in the estimate to cover those holdings.

Wheat for grain and hay was grown on about 13,950 farms, barley on 4,050, and oats for grain and hay on 8,350.

Rainfall—Adelaide Observatory.

Year.	January-March.	April-November.	December.	Total.	Wheat Average per Acre.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	Bush.
1921	3.79	18.35	0.50	22.64	10.46
1922	2.40	17.83	2.97	23.20	11.73
1923	0.80	26.26	2.73	29.79	14.29
Average 10 years	2.32	18.82	1.34	22.48	11.40

ACREAGE.

The figures in parentheses are those for 1922-23.

Total Acreage.—The combined area sown with wheat, barley, and oats for all purposes was 3,429,556 (3,443,644) acres, giving a decreased acreage of 14,088.

Wheat.—Sown, 2,814,027 (2,830,591) acres ; decrease, 16,564 acres. The area was distributed as follows—Grain, 2,416,415 (2,453,086) acres ; decrease, 34,671 acres. Hay, 381,962 (359,834) acres ; increase, 22,128 acres. Fed off, 13,650 (17,671) acres. The grain and hay areas include 34,812 (63,415) acres of cropped land, which entirely failed.

Barley.—Sown, 194,831 (219,591) acres ; decrease, 24,760 acres. Of this area, 189,881 (215,283) acres are reported to have been reaped, the balance being for green fodder.

Oats.—Sown, 420,698 (393,462) acres ; increase, 27,236 acres. Of this area, 176,299 (173,716) acres were reaped, and 234,899 (208,769) acres were cut for hay, the balance being either fed off or out for green fodder.

PRODUCTION.

Wheat.—34,551,955 (28,784,767) bushels ; increase, 5,767,188 bushels. This yield averaged 14.29 (11.73) bushels per acre. The mean yield of the previous five seasons was 25,181,509bush., averaging 11.32bush. per acre.

The total yields and averages per acre in the various divisions of the State were—Central, 6,689,215 (14.91) ; Lower North, 13,845,196 (18.83) ; Upper North, 3,347,648 (14.99) ; South-Eastern, 250,261 (10.44) ; Western, 5,568,101 (11.24) ; and Murray Mallee, 4,849,921 (9.87) bushels.

Classifying the wheat production according to county average it is ascertained that eight counties produced 20,940,584bush., or 60 per cent. of the total crop, averaging from 15.8bush. to 19½bush. to the acre ; 19 counties produced 10,223,562bush., or 30 per cent. of the total crop, averaging 10bush. and under 15bush. to the acre ; and the balance, 3,387,809bush., or 10 per cent., averaging under 10bush. to the acre was the produce of 17 counties.

Barley.—3,310,716 (3,697,849) bushels ; decrease, 387,133bush. ; average per acre, 17.44 (17.18) bushels. Of this quantity, 2,968,623 (3,450,120) bushels were returned as malting barley and the rest as feed.

Oats.—2,157,938 (1,681,783) bushels ; increase, 476,155bush. ; averaging 12.24 (9.68) bushels per acre.

Hay—Wheaten hay, 500,572 (467,514)tons ; average 1.31 (1.30) tons per acre. Oaten hay, 261,581 (214,005) tons. Total, 762,153 (681,519) tons. In addition there would be other kinds of hay totalling about 16,000 tons.

HOME REQUIREMENTS AND EXPORTABLE SURPLUS.

Wheat.—Seed requirements are estimated at 3,000,000bush., and 3,400,000bush. for home consumption—500,000bush. of this includes all inferior grain and the quantity required for stock.

Deducting the total, 6,400,000bush. from the yield of 34,551,955 bushels, leaves an exportable balance of 28,151,955bush.

From December 1st to date the exports oversea of wheat and flour in terms of wheat are estimated to have been 19,659,967bush., leaving an available balance for export of 8,491,988bush.

EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS.

The exports for the year 1922-23 were—Wheat, bushels, 14,117,923, £3,732,427. Flour, tons, 57,302, £656,942. Barley, bushels, 1,767,200, £350,265 ; and for the period, July to March, 1923-24—Wheat, bushels, 19,034,619, £4,377,426. Flour, tons, 46,315, £483,594. Barley, bushels, 1,380,500, £233,356.

W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist.

Statistical Office, Adelaide, May 14th, 1924.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—PRELIMINARY STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE CEREAL AND HAY HARVEST, SEASON 1923-24.

ACREAGE CROPPED.

Division.	Total Wheat, Barley, and Oats.	Wheat.		Barley.	Oats.		Green Fodder.
		Grain.	Hay.		Grain.	Hay.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central	852,198	448,774	159,966	131,062	29,638	72,726	10,032
Lower North	938,942	735,329	104,843	31,772	21,241	40,656	5,101
Upper North	264,127	223,287	34,770	736	2,870	1,726	738
South-Eastern	95,968	23,977	2,633	12,434	20,829	33,290	2,805
Western	609,937	495,730	31,759	9,051	35,447	33,299	4,651
Murray Mallee	668,384	491,318	47,991	4,826	66,274	53,202	4,773
Total 1923-24	3,429,556	2,418,415	381,962	189,881	176,299	234,899	28,100
" 1922-23	3,443,644	2,453,086	359,834	215,283	173,716	208,769	32,956
Mean, 5 years, 1918-19 to 1922-23	3,157,329	2,223,602	364,717	175,301	163,768	187,875	42,066

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—PRELIMINARY STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE CEREAL AND HAY HARVEST, SEASON 1923-24—continued.

PRODUCTION.

Division.	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Hay.	
	Total Yield.	Average per Acre.	Total Yield.	Average per Acre.	Total Yield.	Average per Acre.	Wheaten.	Oaten.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
Central	6,689,215	14.91	2,344,598	17.89	390,410	13.16	223,679	97,650
Lower North	13,845,196	18.83	578,995	18.22	350,982	16.52	158,508	53,303
Upper North	3,347,648	14.99	12,402	16.85	54,405	18.96	46,149	2,279
South-Eastern	250,261	10.44	240,525	19.34	349,803	16.79	2,693	36,393
Western	5,569,714	11.24	88,145	9.74	340,934	9.62	28,519	28,519
Murray Mallee	4,849,921	9.87	46,051	9.54	671,404	10.13	41,024	43,437
Total 1923-24	34,551,955	14.29	3,310,716	17.44	2,157,938	12.24	500,572	261,581
" 1922-23	28,784,767	11.73	3,697,849	17.18	1,681,783	9.68	467,514	214,005
Mean, 5 years, 1918-19 to 1922-23	25,181,509	11.32	3,157,797	18.01	1,697,068	10.36	451,511	198,958

Statistical Office, Adelaide, May 14th, 1924.

W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist.